

Message

---

**From:** Anderson, Milo [anderson.milo@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/19/2016 10:58:16 PM  
**To:** McKim, Krista [mckim.krista@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Tschampa, Andrew [tschampa.andrew@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Public Notice of draft NPDES/SDS permit for U.S. Steel Minntac Tailings Basin  
**Attachments:** Voyageurs National Park.jpg; Voyageurs National Park STORET Data Mining Chemical Paramaters.xlsx

Hi Krista,

As the surface water area of the 2 lakes (Lake Kabetogama, Rainy Lake) Alan from NPS mentioned comprise such a substantially large proportion of the entire area in Voyageurs National Park (see first attachment), I went ahead and pulled STORET monitoring data for those parameters you mentioned for the entire Park. The excel file in the second attachment contains multiple worksheets, one worksheet for each of the parameters you listed. There was quite a lot of data. Although the STORET data does not identify the name of the waterbody sampled, the data includes lat/longs of where the sampling took place and therefore indicates the waterbody when mapped. Presumably Alan has the mapping software and ability to map out these lat/longs. If not, I have shapefiles of these locations which I'd be happy to share.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Milo

---

**From:** Anderson, Milo  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 2:21:18 PM  
**To:** McKim, Krista  
**Subject:** Re: Public Notice of draft NPDES/SDS permit for U.S. Steel Minntac Tailings Basin

STORET retrieval in process ...

---

**From:** McKim, Krista  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 10:33:22 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Milo  
**Subject:** FW: Public Notice of draft NPDES/SDS permit for U.S. Steel Minntac Tailings Basin

Hi Milo!

I am hoping that you are in today and looking for an exciting, but short project. see the question below from NPS regarding the potential effect of Minntac discharges on Voyagers. I've attached the map you created last year that shows that minntac discharges would reach voyagers after some time and distance.

Would you be able to look and see if there sulfate, conductivity, TDS, chloride, mercury and/or methyl-mercury data for the waterbodies that Alan names in his email below? it's quite a distance with a lot of dilution but I wonder if the data shows that those parameters are elevated above background in those waters.

**From:** Ellsworth, Alan [mailto:alan\_ellsworth@nps.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 10:24 AM  
**To:** McKim, Krista <mckim.krista@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Notice of draft NPDES/SDS permit for U.S. Steel Minntac Tailings Basin

Thanks for the letter Krista. A balmy +5 to start the day here.

Are you aware of any research that would identify transport of contaminants from this site to receiving waters at Voyageurs NP (Kabetogaman/Rainy Lakes)?

I am interested in evaluating residence time and transport likelihood to support our need to protect ONRW at Voyageurs NP.

On Mon, Dec 19, 2016 at 9:11 AM, McKim, Krista <[mckim.krista@epa.gov](mailto:mckim.krista@epa.gov)> wrote:

Alan,

Looking through my sent folder, I don't think I shared the attached letter with you. it is from the MPCA commissioner to the group of state legislators from the iron range part of Minnesota. The letter provides some background as to how difficult it has been for Minnesota to regulate this facility.

It was -9F when I woke up this morning. at least it is not windy. I hope it is slightly warmer in fort Collins!

-krista

---

**From:** McKim, Krista  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2016 2:31 PM  
**To:** 'alan\_ellsworth@nps.gov' <[alan\\_ellsworth@nps.gov](mailto:alan_ellsworth@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Public Notice of draft NPDES/SDS permit for U.S. Steel Minntac Tailings Basin

Alan,

MPCA received requests from Tribal staff for an extension to the comment period and has extended the comment period by one week. see the email below.

---

**From:** Smith, Erik (MPCA) [<mailto:Erik.Smith@state.mn.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2016 12:40 PM  
**To:** [nancyschuldt@fdlrez.com](mailto:nancyschuldt@fdlrez.com)  
**Cc:** Pierard, Kevin <[pierard.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:pierard.kevin@epa.gov)>; McKim, Krista <[mckim.krista@epa.gov](mailto:mckim.krista@epa.gov)>; [mwatkins@grandportage.com](mailto:mwatkins@grandportage.com); [Dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org](mailto:Dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org); [amsoltis@glifwc.org](mailto:amsoltis@glifwc.org); [gfraser.mnchippewatribe.org](mailto:gfraser.mnchippewatribe.org) <[gfraser@mnchippewatribe.org](mailto:gfraser@mnchippewatribe.org)>; [linda.nguyen@redcliff-nsn.gov](mailto:linda.nguyen@redcliff-nsn.gov);

[ltbarto.boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:ltbarto@boisforte-nsn.gov) <[ltbarto@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:ltbarto@boisforte-nsn.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Public Notice of draft NPDES/SDS permit for U.S. Steel Minntac Tailings Basin

Nancy,

MPCA has reviewed your request for a three week extension of the comment period for the public notice of the draft U.S. Steel Minntac Tailings Basin NPDES/SDS permit, which is currently scheduled to expire on December 16. As you know, MPCA provided a substantially similar version of the draft permit to the Tribes during a pre-public notice in December 2014 and received comments from several tribal groups at that time. MPCA has a strong interest in moving forward with the permit reissuance process expeditiously. However, to provide you with additional opportunity to review and comment, MPCA will extend the public comment period by one week, to end at 4:30 pm on December 23, 2016. We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

Erik Smith

Hydrologist

Industrial Division

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North

St. Paul, MN 55155

Office: (651) 757-2719

[Erik.Smith@state.mn.us](mailto:Erik.Smith@state.mn.us)

---

**From:** Nancy Schuldt [<mailto:NancySchuldt@FDLREZ.COM>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2016 10:12 AM

**To:** Smith, Erik (MPCA) <[Erik.Smith@state.mn.us](mailto:Erik.Smith@state.mn.us)>

**Cc:** [Pierard.Kevin@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Pierard.Kevin@epamail.epa.gov); Krista McKim ([McKim.Krista@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:McKim.Krista@epamail.epa.gov))

<[McKim.Krista@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:McKim.Krista@epamail.epa.gov)>; [mwatkins@grandportage.com](mailto:mwatkins@grandportage.com); [dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org](mailto:dvogt@1854treatyauthority.org); [amsoltis@glifwc.org](mailto:amsoltis@glifwc.org); [gfrazier@mnchippewatribe.org](mailto:gfrazer@mnchippewatribe.org); [linda.nguyen@redcliff-nsn.gov](mailto:linda.nguyen@redcliff-nsn.gov); [ltbarto@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:ltbarto@boisforte-nsn.gov)

[nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

**Subject:** RE: Public Notice of draft NPDES/SDS permit for U.S. Steel Minntac Tailings Basin

Erik: Fond du Lac recognizes the importance of MPCA publishing notice of the draft NPDES/SDS permit for the USS Minntac tailings basin; it has been a long time in coming. We are intending to provide useful and substantive comments, but unfortunately we have been slammed with numerous other deadlines for review and comment on critical major project decisions that affect tribal and treaty resources. I am respectfully requesting an extension on the December 16 deadline for comments on the Minntac permit. I would ordinarily suggest an additional two weeks, but given the calendar challenges over the upcoming holidays, I am suggesting three additional weeks, with an extended deadline of January 6.

I appreciate your consideration of my request.

*Nancy Schuldt*

*Water Projects Coordinator*

*Fond du Lac Environmental Program*

*1720 Big Lake Road*

*Cloquet, MN 55720*

*218.878.7110*

--

Alan C. Ellsworth  
Chief, Aquatic Systems Branch  
NPS - Water Resources Division  
[alan\\_ellsworth@nps.gov](mailto:alan_ellsworth@nps.gov)

1201 Oakridge Drive	970.225.3518 office
Suite 250	202.308.0930 cell
Fort Collins, CO 80525	970.267.2186 fax

Water is the Blood of the Earth - ace

~~~~~

